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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	INL-00	DODE-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00
	PA-00	MCC-00	GIWI-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	EVR-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8445
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA WASHDC
CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 000870

SIPDIS

PARIS FOR CHARLES NEARY
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/03/2015

TAGS: [GH](#) [IV](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [TO](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEET GHANA'S MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Classified By: POL HIEF SCOTT TICKNOR FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. (C) Summary: The Ambassador, PolChief and DATT mt on April 29 with Ghana's Minister of Defense Kwame Addo-Kufuor (the President's brother), at the Minister's request. The Ambassador highlighted our excellent military-to-military relationship. Kufuor voiced optimism on Togo and Cote d'Ivoire and hoped the USG could help encourage moderation from former President Rawlings. He said the GOG was investigating a cross-border incursion from Cote d'Ivoire as well as a violent incident in Kumasi which may have involved soldiers. In a discussion of good governance, the Ambassador expressed concern about growing allegations of corruption in Ghana. He agreed and sought USG assistance to the Serious Fraud Office. End summary.

Togo

2. (C) Minister Kufuor was hopeful that, with the help of ECOWAS, Nigerian President Obasanjo and Ghana's President Kufuor, peace would return to Togo. Ghana is working within the context of ECOWAS. Togolese opposition leader Gilchrist Olympio cannot turn his back on France and Ghana, he said. The U.S. needs to pressure the opposition to work toward a government of national reconciliation and encourage the opposition to work within the reality of the election and prepare themselves for the next parliamentary elections, Kufuor said. Ghana's ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) went through the same process when they lost in the rigged 1992 election, bided their time, and eventually prevailed in the 2000 election, he said.

3. (C) The Ambassador noted the violence in Togo and asked how the GOG could excuse the trashing of electoral computers. "You know Africa," Kufuor responded, stating that since there was no loss of life in that incident, leaders need to look ahead. France has pronounced the elections free and fair, he said, and France is very important in shaping events. Wherever France goes, the EU will go too, he said. Faure Gnassingbe is a "cultured young man, a refined chap" who can be persuaded to move Togo on a positive path.

Cote d'Ivoire

4. (C) Kufuor was "reasonably confident" about the prospects for peace in Cote d'Ivoire. South African President Mbeki is seen as an honest broker and the government's decision to allow Ouattara to compete in the election is encouraging. The fine points need to be worked out but Cote d'Ivoire may have "turned a corner", he said. The Ambassador noted some worrying signs which bear watching. She asked about a recently publicized incident in which Ivoirian rebels reportedly crossed into Ghana on March 12, possibly with the assistance of a Ghanaian soldier working as a UN peacekeeper, kidnapped a chief and took him back into Cote d'Ivoire. The Minister said the implicated Ghanaian officer had been recalled to Ghana for questioning. Kufuor was clear that the GOG is not accusing him, but wants to hear his side of the story. He attributed the incident to a minor

dispute among chiefs which will be settled over time.
Comment: The minister treated the Ivoirian cross-border incursion as a serious incident that merited his personal attention and front page (government) press coverage. Other sources have been quite dismissive of the incident. NPP National Chairman Harona Esseku suggested to PolChief that Kufuor's handling of this incident was an embarrassment and diminished his stature (Kufuor flew to the Northern region with much fanfare, reportedly against the recommendation of his senior staff, for what turned out to be a minor incident involving a chief who Esseku described as a known arms smuggler.) It could be that the minister was attempting to divert attention from other political issues. End comment.

Rawlings

15. (C) Kufuor asked if the Embassy could help intervene with former President J.J. Rawlings to encourage him to tone down his anti-government rhetoric, which the Minister said was causing excessive "turbulence" in Ghanaian politics. The Ambassador noted that, while she was by no means an apologist

for Rawlings, she thought he had made efforts to control his remarks during the recent African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) meeting in South Africa. She suggested the government might choose to ignore Rawlings' frequent barbs. The minister indicated that he got her point.

Violence in Kumasi

16. (C) The Ambassador expressed concern about media reports that 40 young men (reportedly including soldiers) went on a rampage in Kumasi on April 27, destroying property and injuring 50 people. According to press reports, the men were avenging the mob lynching of a fellow soldier who was involved in a gambling problem. Minister Kufuor thought the men were off-duty police officers, and commented that this kind of rampage used to happen during the Rawlings years. He said the matter was being investigated by a High Court judge. Note: the Ministry's Chief Director Frank Mpare told PolChief after the meeting that he thought the men were soldiers. End note.

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Good Governance and Corruption
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17. (C) Kufuor asked the Ambassador how she assessed democratic governance in Ghana. She responded that she was impressed with Ghana's governance and its December 2004 free and fair elections. She noted that the MCA eligibility for the second year was public USG recognition of good governance. However, we are hearing growing concerns from private sector, NGO, politician and other diplomatic contacts about rising corruption in Ghana. This could become a significant obstacle to democracy and economic growth. Kufuor said he agreed fully and would talk to the President about this concern. He noted that top GOG officials have to declare their assets publicly and are constantly under scrutiny. He said ministers are especially scrutinized when others below them should be investigated. Nonetheless, the GOG should take more serious efforts to counter corruption, he said, perhaps by strengthening the Serious Fraud Office (he hoped with USG assistance.)

Comment

18. (C) This meeting replaced a canceled meeting when the minister flew to the north to investigate the Ivoirian incursion. He had sent his Chief of Staff to see the Ambassador on the eve of the canceled visit by General Wald to request that Wald make a strong statement about Ghana's democracy because of threatening remarks in the press by Rawlings. In this context, in our April 29 the minister seemed most forward leaning on the Rawlings and governance issues. As the President's brother, Minister Kufuor has power beyond his Defense portfolio and is in a position to transmit our anti-corruption message to the top levels of government. His view of the Togo situation probably reflects the President's. (During a May 2 meeting, PolChief heard a similar view on Togo from the new Inspector General of Police, Patrick Acheampong.) According to NPP National Chairman Esseku, Minister Kufuor is lining himself up to be a contender for the party ticket in the 2008 national election (although Esseku and some other contacts do not believe he has a strong chance.)

Brief Biography

19. (U) Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor (65) has been Minister of Defense and a Member of Parliament from Manhyia, Ashanti Region since 2001. He is the brother of President John Kufuor. From April 2002-April 2003 he also served as Acting Interior Minister. He has a B.A. and a medical degree from Cambridge University. Starting in 1971, Kufuor worked as a physician for several hospitals in Ghana and the U.K. . He was President of the Ghana Medical Association from 1992-1995 and was elected to parliament in 1996 as a member of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP). He went to the United States on an International Visitor Program in 1997 with seven other MPs. Kufuor is a lay preacher with the Anglican

Church. He is married and has three children.

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